units undertake diversification so as to raise turnover and productivity. Diversification also enhances their exposure to commercial industrial culture. Seeking additional avenues of work in export markets forms a part of the diversification efforts.

(b) HAL has manufactured HS-748 in the past and is presently manufacturing Dornier aircraft. To utilise the spare capacity, HAL has been trying to diversify into (i) maintenance and servicing of civilian aircraft, (ii) subcontract work for airframe and engine components from major aircraft manufacturers, etc. HAL has already started work on civil aircraft maintenance and has obtained orders for subcontract work from foreign buyers.

In the area of telecommunication-sattelite communications and broadcasting BEL have already achieved cosiderable growth. In the medical electronics field BEL is manufacturing X-ray tubes.

(c) The ordnance factories sales to non-defence customers are expected to be 22 per cent of the total sales in 1993-94.

(d) and (e) Diversification has in no way affected the production of arms for the defence forces since only spareable capacity after meeting the defence requirements is utilised for non-defence customers. In fact diversification results in higher overall turnover and lower costs for stores delivered to armed forces and, thus, enhances their supportive role for defence preparedness.

(f) While the precise position will be known only after conclusion of the year, the defence public sector undertakings are expected to maintain in 1993-94 an upward trend in profits. The ordnance factories, being departmental undertaking, are working on 'no profit no loss' basis for their issues to the defence forces. By diversification the overheads are distributed over a larger volume of production thereby reducing the unit cost of production for the armed forces. Benefit of any excess generated is also passed on to the armed forces.

Fresh research plan for Defence

3106. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Controller of Defence Research has stressed upon Government that a fresh research plan should be prepared for defence purpose;

(b) if so, whether it has also been pointed out that utilisation of the country's various academic institutions in research and development of indigenous defence capacity should be reorganised and sufficient funds to be provided for their research and development programme;

(c) if so, what steps Government have proposed to tune up the Received and Distribution Wings in improving the defence capability; and

(d) whether any foreign help and assistance is being sought so that the modern weapons and technology in defence is imported in their research-wing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Cheif Controller Research & Developme'n (A), while speaking at Cmde Garg Memorial Lecture organised by the Institution of Naval Architects was highlighting that Defence Research & Development Organisation was making optimal use of R&D expertise and infrastructure available in universities, academic institutions and research laboratories in the areas of relevance to Defence requirements by sponsoring and funding projects to these institutions. He had stressed that this should continue and be strengthened progressively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Review of pay scales of draftsmen in MES

3107. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Principal Bench of CAT, New Delhi, in OA case No. 1929

88 has asked Government to enhance/review pay scales in the case of those draftsmen in MES who have filed the case in CAT, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the pay scales of draftmen have been reviewed by Government, as directed by the CAT Principal Bench;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when their pay scales are likely to be reviewed/enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The Principal Bench of CAT, New Delhi in OA No. 1929/88 had directed the Government to place the applicants therein who were Draftsmen Grade I and Grade II in the revised scale of Rs. 550-750 and Rs. 425-700 (pre-revised) respectively, notionally with effect from 13-5-82 with actual benefit with effect from 1-11-1983. Necessary Government sanction in implementation of the CAT judgement was issued in April, 1992.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Sufficiency in defence production

3108. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present level of defence production is sufficient for the country or whether more defence production is reqired;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to set up new defence production units during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether any long term plan has been drawn in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) We have now a firm defence production base in the country comprising 39 ordnance factories, 8 defence public sector undertakings and the civil sector which is considered adequate to match the requirements of the defence forces. These units have the capability to adapt to meet the future demands. In view of adequate production facilities already available, there is no proposal at present to set up a new ordnance factory, but to cater to demands for new products some investments of balancing nature may have to be made.

New aircrafts obtained by I.A.F.

3109. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the new types of combat aircrafts that have been obtained by the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether these are sufficient to meet our present defence requirements;

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to see that our requirements are properly met; and

(d) whether these aircrafts have been imported and if so, from which countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No new type of Combat aircraft has been inducted into the IAF during last 5 years.

(b) to (d) The Government continuously monitors the requirements of the Defence Services in the context of existing and anticipated threat and takes necessary measures to ensure adequate defence preparedness.

Unemployed ex-servicemen in Maharashtra

3110. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ex-servicemen still unemployed in Maharashtra;